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IN THIS ISSUE

Greek Currency Control Marks from 1936 to 1941 Part 1

An Early Nigerian "Parcel Goods Wrapper"

A Farthing for Your Thoughts

The Jamestown Exposition

Competition for the Dutch Postal Services

Out of the Frying Pan Into The Fire

Vanishing Towns and Other Matters

Hand-Held Date-Stamp Notes

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Date	2013 / 14 Programme	Display
9 December 2013	General Meeting	Members Competition up to 10 A4 sheets.
17 February 2014	Michael Barden	Belgium—1920s inflation (Shown on Postal Stationery)
21 April 2014	George Speirs	Australian civil censored mail
	Hans Bachmayer	Australian KGV Postal History

Contents

Editorial	3
Vale Colin Salt FBSAP	4
<i>Dee Pullen & Brinsley Barnes</i>	
Greek Currency Control Marks from 1936 to 1941 Part 1—Emanating from Greece	5
<i>Judy Kennett</i>	
An Early Nigerian “Parcel Goods Wrapper”	12
<i>Dr John Courtis</i>	
A Farthing for Your Thoughts	15
<i>George Speirs</i>	
The Jamestown Exposition	16
<i>Ian Cutter</i>	
Competition for the Dutch Postal Services	18
<i>Michael Barden</i>	
Out of the Frying Pan Into The Fire	23
<i>Tony Lyon</i>	
Vanishing Towns and Other Matters	24
<i>Ian Cutter, Tony Lyon, Nina Dowden</i>	
HHDS	26
<i>Compiled by George Vearing</i>	
Advertisement	30 & 31
Eclectic Airmails	32
<i>John Young</i>	

Front cover:

Airmail Barbados to Australia 1943. Franked 4 shillings and 4 pence for airmail all the way, but PAA service had ceased in 1941. Flown to Honolulu, but whether also flown to Australia on military or Lend Lease service is unknown. Censored in USA and Melbourne.



Editorial

Tony Lyon

Another year coming to a close and with this issue four journals have been published on time. This one a little early to beat the Christmas rush, as well as the fact that my wife and I are off to Vietnam for two weeks holiday. We will also visit a nephew who lives in Hanoi with his wife and son.

Thanks must go to all the contributors who have made these journals possible. Thanks also to Dee Pullen and Brinsley Barnes for their contributions about Colin Salt. Colin was a contributor to this journal and will be sadly missed.

As usual I need contributions for the March journal. We can even help with putting together your article if you are not sure how to go about it. It is a lot of fun and there is enjoyment to be gained from showing others what you collect.

Special thanks to Michael Barden who assists in formatting some of the articles and also to George Vearing who continues to compile Hand Held Date Stamps. George is always looking for examples of postmarks from all states; so if you can help, George's email address is on page two.

I hope you all have a pleasant Christmas period and that the New Year brings new opportunities.

A final thought from Anonymous who said:

Man (or woman) is like a postage stamp. S/He gets licked, depressed, stuck in the corner, sent from pillar to post—BUT — s/he gets there in the end if s/he sticks to it.

Ciao for now.

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Vale Colin Salt - FBSAP

**Dee Pullen, (Murcia, Spain)
October 2013**

I knew Colin for many years, first meeting him at BSAP meetings in London. Some of our Australian collecting interests were the same and led to much correspondence being exchanged between us. After we moved to Spain (nearly six years ago now) we were constantly in touch by email, though we did occasionally meet up at Stampex in London. Once he said to me that he wanted to record as many postmarks and cachets as he possibly could to get as much information recorded in his lifetime. This he achieved by contact with like-minded collectors worldwide.



As well as being the BSAP Bulletin Editor for many years and taking care of his wife, he worked on his records, continually updating them as more information became available to him. As well as sharing his extensive knowledge he was always more than generous with his surplus material and many an interesting little package would arrive in our local Post Office Box.

I was shocked to hear of his sudden death. He will be missed, not only by me, but many other people with whom he was in contact from local to international philatelic circles.

Brinsley Barnes, Melbourne

Very saddened I was to learn of the death of Colin Salt on 24 August 2013. He was 83 and had lived in the quaintly English named Frinton-on-Sea on the Essex coast. He had been a friend and philatelic mentor for very many years.

When he retired from active work, he fulfilled a long held desire to visit Australia to visit as many traders and dealers as he could, getting himself known and purchasing items of interest.

After collecting mainstream items like KGV, postmarks and numerals, he concentrated on a very in depth study of machine postal cancellations of Melbourne, in similar style to "Rideout to Toshiba" by Orchard and Tobin. These ranged from Barr-Fyke, Columbia, Robertson, Krag through to Universal Toshiba. He then progressed to a study of the square box cancellations. Sadly, he did not publish his findings, so very fortunate indeed I am to have so very many pages of his drafts. From there he continued the same theme for other capital cities including the PAID dies.

He then proceeded to his Magnus Opus with a comprehensive study of earliest/latest dates of the various types of machine date cases of country and suburban post offices for each state. Many a time we both patiently spent time trawling through cartons of corner cut-outs looking for elusive items. All this data has been published.

He also indulged in slogan cancellations as per the work of Occleshaw. More recently he took up the study of taxed covers and underpaid cards. He also found the time to be Editor of BSAP.

Truly, he was indefatigable in his pursuits. For me, it was always a pleasure to add/amend data to his drafts from my own material and we did exchange a lot of material. I was pleased too to have "spotted" items in forthcoming sales, in which I knew he would have interest. Although I never had the good fortune to meet up with him, we did enjoy a very long time exchange of e-mails on both philatelic subjects and topics of the day. I shall miss him greatly.

My condolences go to his wife, Eileen, and family.

Greek Currency Control Marks from 1936 to 1941

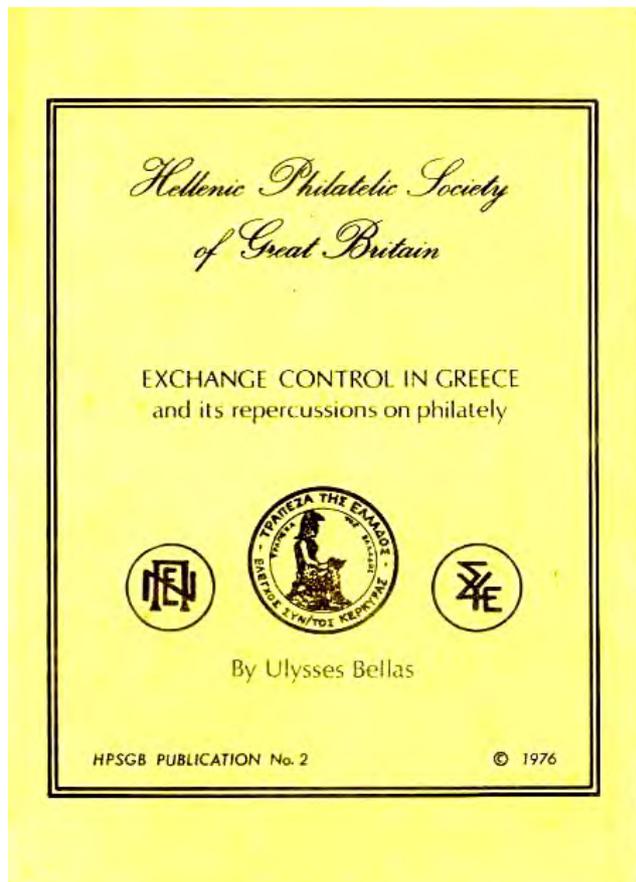
Part 1 – Mail Emanating from Greece

Judy Kennett

Introduction. Michael Barden found out a while ago that I was interested in and collected pre-war Greek currency control marks on airmail covers. Perhaps unwisely he suggested that I should write something about them for the *Australian Journal of Philately*.

I became interested because no one seemed to know (a) what they were, (b) what was their purpose, and (c) why they appeared on pre-war covers to Australia from eastern and central European countries and on covers from Australia to these same countries. So I started collecting, or should we say accumulating these covers. There was correspondence about them in *The New South Wales Philatelist* during the early 1980s, and I found out what they were. Quite early I acquired examples on surface mail covers as well as on airmails, and also found them on covers to Egypt and Eastern and Southern African countries, as well as to Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

It soon became plain that there were a number of different patterns, and that these cachets appeared on mail emanating from Greece, as well as on mail that had passed through Greece. Pre-war Athens was an important transport hub for much of Eastern Europe. It was already a major port of call for shipping, and as small national airlines developed after WW1 and spread through Europe, it became a terminus for many of their services. Also Imperial Airways (later BOAC) and KLM called at Athens on their Eastern routes. It must also be remembered that many Greeks migrated to other countries between the wars, and joined fellow countrymen, who had already settled there. These are the conditions in which family correspondences thrive.



Finding information in English was necessary, and it was fortunate that a copy of *Exchange control in Greece and its repercussions on philately* was given to me. Its cover is shown on the left. Later I found a useful journal article *The postal history of exchange control* by A.R. Torrance, which links the situation in Greece with exchange control in Germany (1918-1925) and also (1933-1936) and Czechoslovakia (1938-1940). It makes very interesting reading.

Exchange control in Greece (1936-1941). Mr Bellas' pamphlet deals with the 23mm cachets with initials (7 types), larger cachets with a seated Athena (6 types), the bi-lingual sealing tapes (many patterns here) plus the period of currency control after the war (1945-1951). This article is confined to the black cachets with initials used from 1936-1941, and this first part will deal with mail emanating from Greece.

Figure 1 showing some of the cachets on the cover.

Why were these cachets introduced? To quote from Bellas: 'To protect its national currency, the Greek Government established control in 1936 over all correspondence addressed abroad. The

Ministry of Finance and National Economy (Law 5426, Art 1 of 14 March 1936, Regulation 118220 of 28 October 1936) forbade any import or export of postage stamps without authority, and made the Bank of Greece responsible for applying the Law. Regulation 118220 set a limit on the value of postage stamps that could be freely exported of Dr. 1000 [drachmas] in 1936 values. Nevertheless, the sender was obliged to deposit at the post office of his choice a customs declaration, duly signed.

The main office of the Bank of Greece in Athens and its provincial branches in different departmental capitals were made responsible for the operation of these regulations.

To get an export licence for stamps exceeding Dr.1000 in commercial value, it was necessary for the exporter to make a declaration (guarantee) to import foreign currency. Payment for imported stamps could only be made by means of exporting stamps of equal value; the Bank of Greece never released foreign currency to pay for imported stamps'. (Ref. 1)



Obviously all these bureaucratic inconveniences were damaging to the interests of Greek philatelists and stamp dealers. Figure 2 shows a postcard message to an Australian collector from a Greek stamp dealer. As might be expected, the philatelic press published several protests, but in vain. Only the war, and the occupation of Greece, put a temporary stop to the practice.

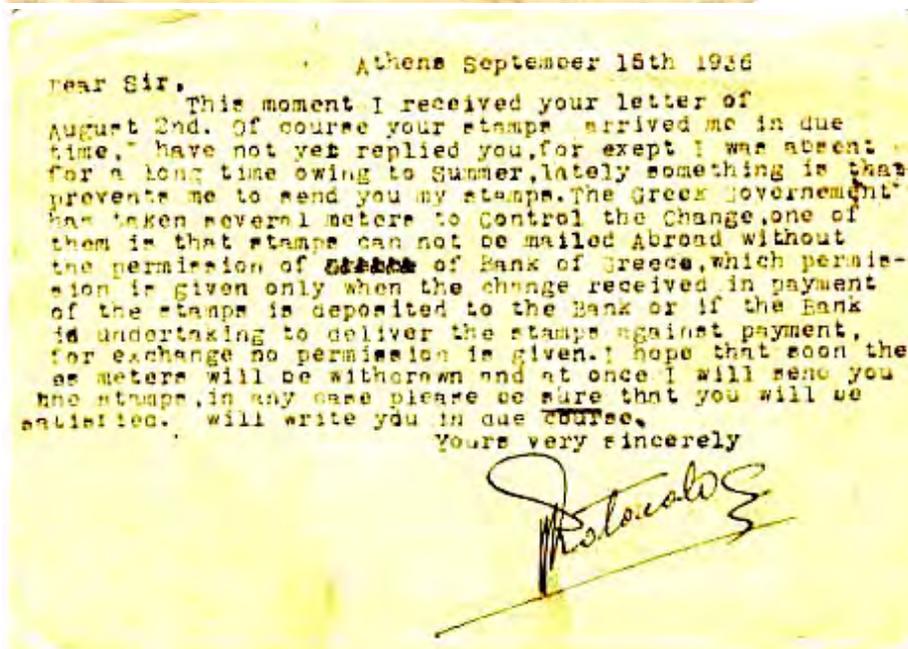


Figure 2.

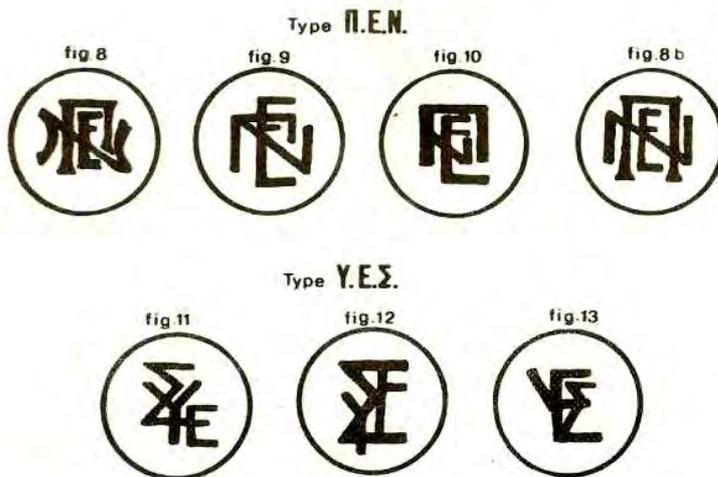
Postcard from Athens to Adelaide (B & F) explaining the new control measures of the Greek government.

"Letters supported by the statutory authority of a bank escaped any control because they had been presented unsealed by the senders at the time of formal clearance to obtain the export licence. These letters bear the exchange control stamp on the front of the envelope. The commercial value of the postage stamps was 'estimated' by certain postal employees promoted to the rank of 'experts' by Regulation 193122/2 of 15 May 1938. However, because of the volume of mail for abroad, control could not be exercised on all the letters. Five per cent of the total had, however, to be examined by the authorities". (Ref. 2)

Description of Cachets. The exchange control cachets from the 1936 – 1941 period may be listed under four main types:-

Type 1 (Bellas cachets 8 - 13). "These cachets are circular, 23 mm diameter, bearing in the centre various combinations of the initials Π.Ε.Ν. or Υ.Ε.Σ. Π.Ε.Ν. are the initials of ΠΡΟΣΤΑΣΙΑ ΕΘΝΙΚΟΥ ΝΟΜΙΣΜΑΤΟΣ i.e. National Currency Protection (figs 8 – 11). Υ.Ε.Σ. are the initials of ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ ΕΘΝΙΚΟΥ ΣΥΝΑΛΛΑΓΜΑΤΟΣ i.e. National Exchange Service (figs 12 & 13). They are normally black, more rarely violet. They are always found on envelopes originating from Athens or its environs. They tie the sealing strips or may be found alone on envelopes or postcards. I have never seen them on stamps." (ref 3)

CACHETS OF ATHENS



I have used the numbers given by Bellas to the seven different cachets in my descriptions of the selected items of mail.

Note - **cachet** is used rather than **fig** in describing these.

Figure 3 – Circular cachets

Examples of cachets on covers and cards (Figures 4 – 10). As this is a study of these particular cachets, rates and routes are not discussed. There is almost nothing said about the stamps used, even some of the surcharged issues. The envelopes in illustrations 5 and 6 have been opened and the contents examined, then sealed with white paper sealing strips, printed in French and in Greek. There is no discussion of these strips.



Figure 4 – showing Cachet 8.

Airmail Athens to Christchurch, New Zealand.

Posted 22 May 1937, Cachet 8 on front.

Backstamps are: Athens / Poste Aerienn 22 May 1937, Thos Cook Athens dated cachet,

Sydney machine cancel 1 Jun 1937, would have been forwarded to NZ by sea.

Not examined by the Greek system.



Figure 5 (F & B) – showing Cachet 8b

Surface mail from Athens to Melbourne.

Posted 13 Nov 1937, opened and sealed with a currency control tape. Tape tied to envelope with Cachet 8b both front and back. No receiving cancels.

Examined by the Greek system.



Note – the red surcharge of ΠΡΟΝΟΙΑ with a cross on the 50 lepta stamps is inverted.

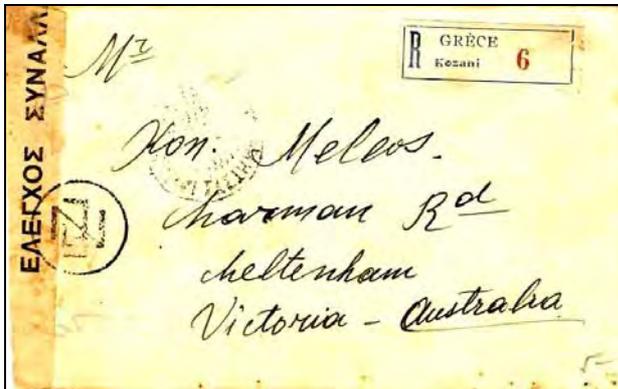


Figure 6 (F & B) – showing Cachet 9

Registered surface mail Kozani to Cheltenham, Victoria.

Posted 15 Jan 1938.

Opened and sealed with currency control tape.

Tape tied to envelope with Cachet 9 both front and back.

Receiving cancels

REGISTERED / MELBOURNE 19FE38,

CHELTHENHAM VIC 21FE38.

Examined by the Greek system.



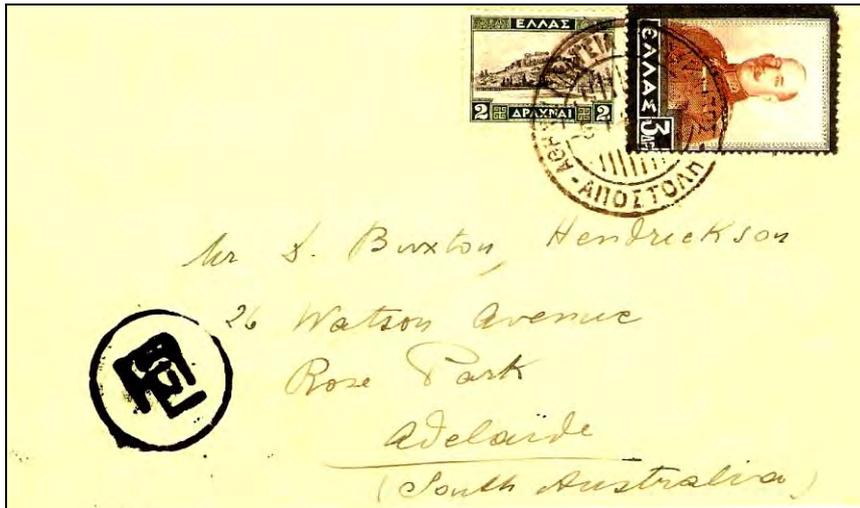


Figure 7 – showing Cachet 10

Postcard sent by surface mail from Athens to Adelaide

Posted 5 Jan 1937, with Cachet 10.

Message in French.

No receiving cancels.



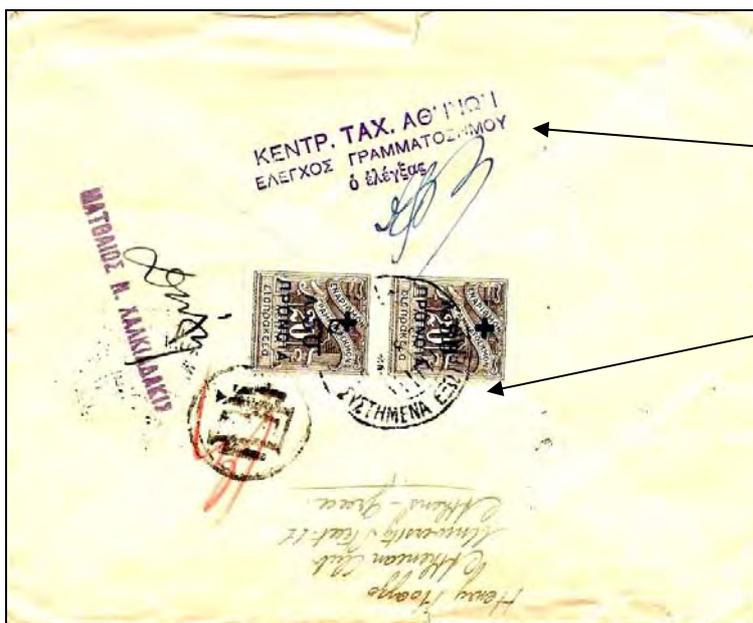
Figure 8 (F & B) – showing Cachet 11

Registered surface mail Athens posted 2 Aug 1938 to Bentleigh Vic.

Receiving cancel BENTLEIGH / Victoria 2SE38 and Cachet 11 on front.

On back – probably taken to Post Office unsealed and stamps used to seal back flap after examination.

Initials of examiner and impression of Cachet 8b to seal envelope.



The second violet cachet says 'Central Post Office Athens, Stamp Examination', with examiner's name and initials.

Andrew Ballis says that the cancel used on the stamps says 'Registered overseas' at the base, but there is no registration label. However, the envelope was cancelled on arrival at Bentleigh.



Figure 9 (F & B) – showing Cachet 12

Registered surface mail from Athens to Yorketown South Australia, and addressed to a stamp dealer.

Posted 22 Nov 1938.

Blurred cds in top left hand corner may be Yorketown receiving cancel.

On back – probably taken to the post office unsealed and examined.

Additional definitive stamps used to seal back flap. The violet cachet is the same as on the previous envelope, with the examiner's initials.



Cachet 12 on the back twice, one impression not clear.

Cancels on stamps not clear,

Also poor REGISTERED PERTH / WEST AUSTRALIA 26DEC38.

Questions – (1) were the stamps used to seal these two envelopes after examination included in the postage? (2) Was there a charge for examination?

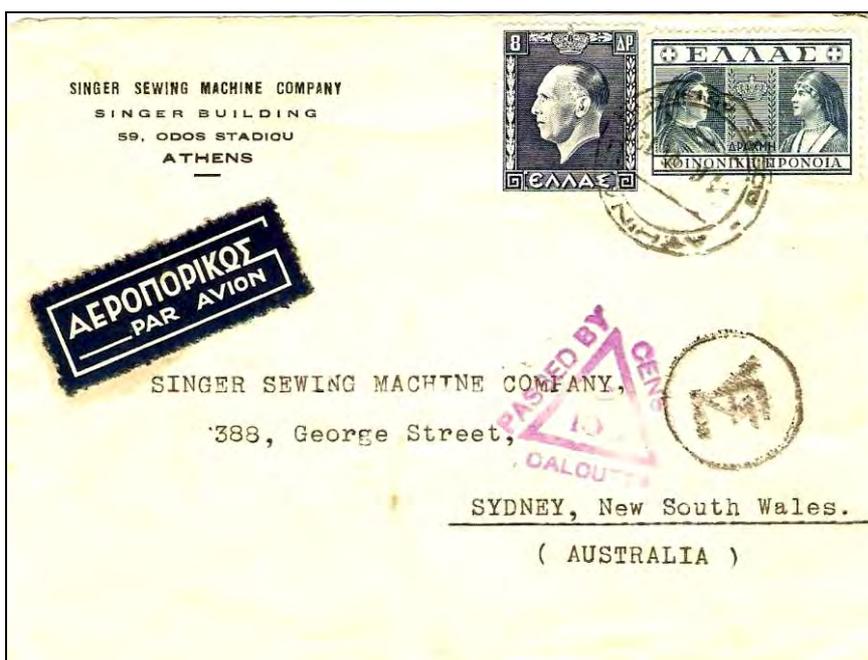


Figure 10 F – showing Cachet 13 (B on page 11)

Airmail Athens to Sydney posted 1 Feb 1940. Commercial cover, with Cachet 13 on front.

Also triangular 'PASSED BY CENSOR 153 / CALCUTTA'.

Not censored in Sydney.



Figure 10 B

On the back – stamps cancelled with 'Athina / Poste Aerieenne.

Not examined by the Greek system.

It must be asked if these regulations did restrict the flow of currency in the form of postage stamps being sent out of Greece. They created an extra layer of bureaucracy, and would have enabled the authorities to keep tabs on the activities of certain people, if they wished.

Now we ask 'What happened if you were caught trying to cheat the system? Again we quote from Bellas: 'When a letter was opened, "If the declaration was proved false, the letter plus the contents was [sic] confiscated, and the sender was prosecuted and heavily fined (see various accounts of cases heard by the courts". (Ref. 4)

A modern interpretation of the system is given in correspondence between Michael Barden and a Greek contact, Lazaros Kanxidis. The latter says 'The currency control marks did not start at the restoration of the Monarchy (25 November 1935) but on 20 August 1936, when the Greek State was a dictatorship under J Metaxas. The supposed reason for these markings was, as you say, to show that no currency was being smuggled in the letters, but since these markings are also found on stationery cards, one can safely say that they were civil censorship markings'. (Ref. 5)

Acknowledgements

Without Mr Bellas's booklet, I would not have been able to write this article. It is still listed on the Hellenic Philatelic Society website, so it can be assumed that it's still available. There's no mention of a second edition, or an update.

Thank you to Andrew Ballis for his help with translating the text on the backs of Figures 8 and 9, and for advice about postmarks. He knows of my interest in these cachets, and has found many interesting covers for me over the years.

Also of interest in this subject is '*The postal history of exchange control*, by A R Torrance, published in Gibbons Stamp Monthly, May 1982, pages 55-58.

References

1. Bellas, Ulysses, *Exchange control in Greece and its repercussions on philately*, Hellenic Philatelic Society of Great Britain, HPSGB Publication No 2, 1976, page 1.
2. Ibid, page 2.
3. Ibid, page 5.
4. Ibid, page 2
5. Email correspondence between Michael Barden and Lazaros Kanxidis, of A Karamitsos, Thessaloniki (www.karamitsos.com) of 26 August 2013.

An Early Nigerian “Parcel Post Goods” Wrapper

Dr John K. Courtis, acapjajc@friends.cityu.edu.hk

An unusual home-made Nigerian wrapper caught my eye because of the postage due T within a 24mm circle tied to a 1953 1d Bornu horsemen (Sc81). The wrapper is headed *Printed matter*, underlined and is addressed to Yuma, Arizona, USA. The postmark is 27/16mm MUSHIN 2.45PM 22 MY 56 NIGERIA. There were four small sheets of enclosures no larger than the size of the wrapper. The paper mail rate to the USA at the time was 1½d for 2oz so the wrapper was underpaid ½d, the double deficiency taking the charge to 1d (Furfie 2010). The wrapper is shown as Illustration 1.

Illustration 1: Printed Matter Nigerian Wrapper and Taxed



The enclosures advertise a list of goods available for sale via parcel post together with the sender's name and address. This is a very bizarre list covering a variety of “local” items.

1. African leather slippers 4 Dollars
2. Crocodile leather slipper (sic) 5 dollars
3. Daggers made of wood handle 5 Dollars
4. Carved ebony figures small 5 Dols
5. Carved ebony figures Big size 10 Dols
6. Porcupine Qils (sic) 100 for 3 Dols
7. Africa Musical Instrument 10 Dols
8. Leopard Skin large size 45 Dolars
9. Snake skin Long 10 Dols small 5 Dols
10. Beaver skin 2 Dols, Lizard Skin 5 Dols
11. Ladies blouse of fine design 4 dols
12. Cayene Pepper 1 lb 50 cents
13. 1000 Used Stamps 3 Dolars
14. African Pictures 20 cents each
15. Crocodile ladies handbag 16 Dolars
16. Scrap Mahogon (sic) wood for salt and Pepper Shakers 20 dollars

Sample Collection of goods will be sent by parcel post on receipt of check of 26 Dols and made payable to Akin Pola Cole, 7, Alli St., Mushin, Lagos, Nigeria.

You can also advertise our goods in your Mail or Mail Magazines and Circulars.

The pure of heart would say that this is a strange list but perhaps is a reflection of the times, 57 years ago (as at 2013). The more suspicious would say that this is an early example of a mail order scam with unacceptable products to US customs. Note that the sender's address is Mushin, Lagos. Mushin is a suburb of Lagos in Nigeria which is located 10km north of the Lagos city core, adjacent to the main road to Ikeja. It is largely a congested residential area with inadequate sanitation and low-quality housing in 1956, if not also today. Mushin is the source of current mail order scams. Nigeria is one of several high risk countries for accepting mail order business. The evidence for this being a mail order scam is circumstantial so let us examine the list for clues.

The most obvious doubtful inclusion is item ten – beaver skin. Beavers are either from North America or are Eurasian. It was hunted to near-extinction for both its fur and castoreum, and by 1900 only 1,200 beavers survived in eight relict populations in Europe and Asia. Re-introduced through much of its former range, it now occurs from Great Britain to China and Mongolia, although it is absent from Italy, Portugal and the southern Balkans (Wikipedia). There is no evidence that a beaver skin could have been procured from a Nigerian source.

Another questionable inclusion is porcupine quills. The porcupine itself is a tasty dish in some Asian areas (e.g., Vietnam) and in Nigeria too. The quills, however, do not seem to have use other than as decorative together with leather garments. Why they would be on the list in batches of 100 for a US market is not obvious.

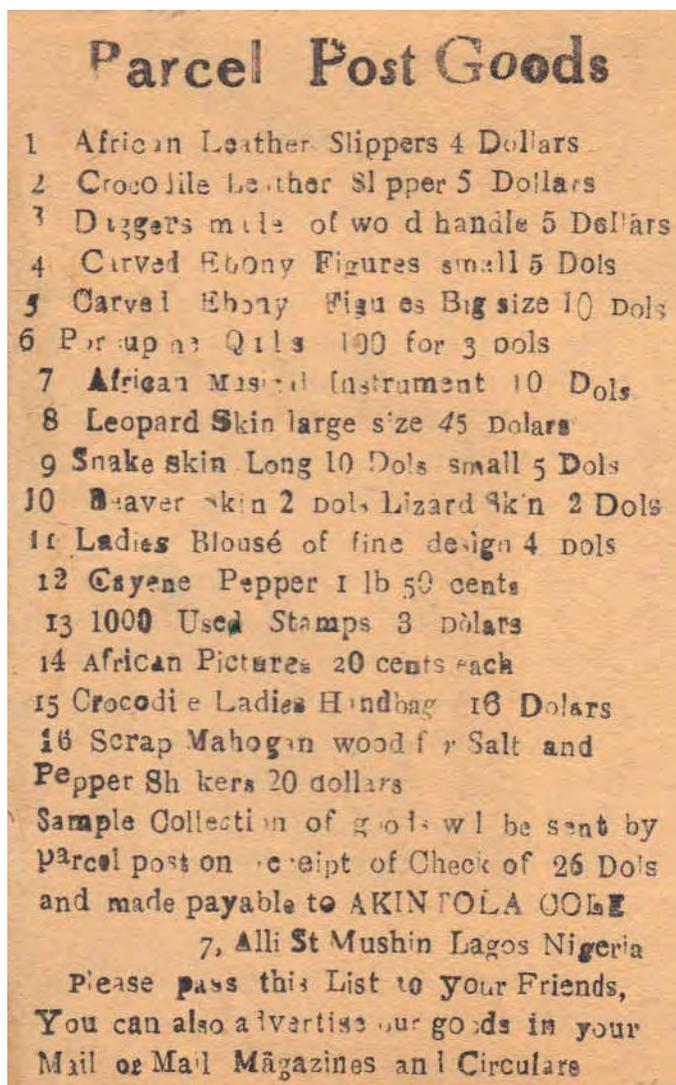


Illustration 2: List of Parcel Post Goods

The legitimacy of the carved ebony figures are more difficult to determine because the Ivory Trade Ban did not commence until 1990. It may well be that these items could be imported into the USA in 1956. CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens

of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. The ideas for CITES were first formed, in the 1960s, prior to this List. CITES was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of IUCN (The World Conservation Union). The text of the Convention was finally agreed at a meeting of representatives of 80 countries in Washington, D.C., the United States of America, on 3 March 1973, and on 1 July 1975 CITES entered in force. Today, therefore carved ebony figures and crocodile leather slippers and handbags would likely not be allowed through customs from Nigeria.

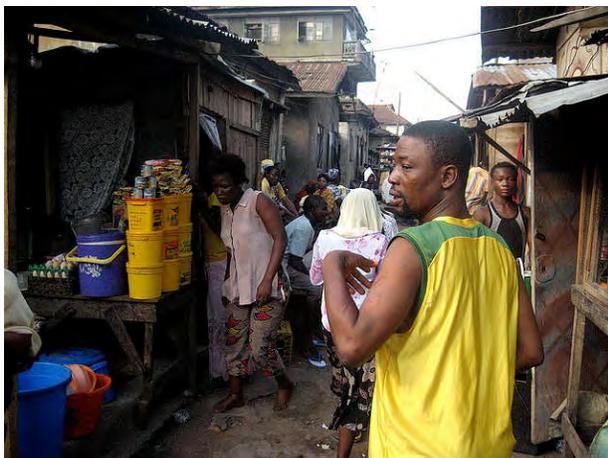
CITES would also likely block the importation of snake skin and leopard skin from Nigeria, items eight and nine. Also porcupine quills today would be confiscated. In 1956 these products would probably have been allowed to enter the US and viewed as exotic. Mahogany salt and pepper shakers are a doubtful import today as would be the daggers made with wood handles. African musical instruments made of Nigerian wood and hide would be suspect too. Items less controversial on the list are item 11 - the ladies blouse of fine design, item 12 - cayenne pepper, item 13 - 1000 used stamps, and item 14 - African pictures.

Mushin is identified on the Web on a number of sites as a location to be concerned about regarding fraudulent mail orders, fake employment companies and credit card fraud. It may be pure coincidence regarding Mushin's current bad press and its mailing address on the Parcel Post List. The 1956 mail order List is several decades ahead of the Internet, which is now used frequently as a means of all-manner of Nigerian scams to clean out bank accounts of the gullible and unsuspecting. As is to be expected, the seller "Akin Pola Cole" is not listed on the Internet so there is no direct proof that he was involved in an early version of mail order scamming.

"Mushin is arguably known for its notoriety. Many people see the community from different perspectives, especially as night sets in. This has gone a long way to affect how other people outside Mushin relate with the residents. They would prefer to keep them at arm's length and watch, just to play safe. For many observers of life in Mushin, they would prefer to call it 'moonshine' because it is a community that never sleeps!"

"A typical night in Mushin brings to bear the good, the bad and the ugly in the ever-boisterous community. As you approach the vicinity from either the Mainland or Island, you would meet a crowded community, which announces to its first-time visitor, 'welcome to a hustling and bustling community where men are laws unto themselves.' You could be harassed and even beaten, yet nothing would happen as the night rulers of the community take full charge. They would tell you go bring your police" (The Nigerian Voice). See Illustration 3 for Web photos of Mushin, with due acknowledgment to Flickr.

Illustration 3: Mushin, Lagos, Nigeria



This early example of a home-made Nigerian wrapper with enclosures listing exotic items for mail order sale to the USA is a paradox. On the one hand, it may be an early example of a legitimate mail order business dealing in interesting and very different merchandise. On the other hand, it may be a precursor to the Nigerian mail order scams emanating from Mushin, Lagos and dealing with unusual but forbidden items. A "Sample Collection" required prepayment of USD26, which when converted from its 1956 value to its 2013 equivalent is USD171, thereby indicating that the USD26 was not an inconsiderable amount then for non-essential items that may or may not turn up (Areppine's Mathematical & financial calculator).

Reference:

Furfie Michael (2010), *International Postage Rates 1890s-1957*, England, p. 64.

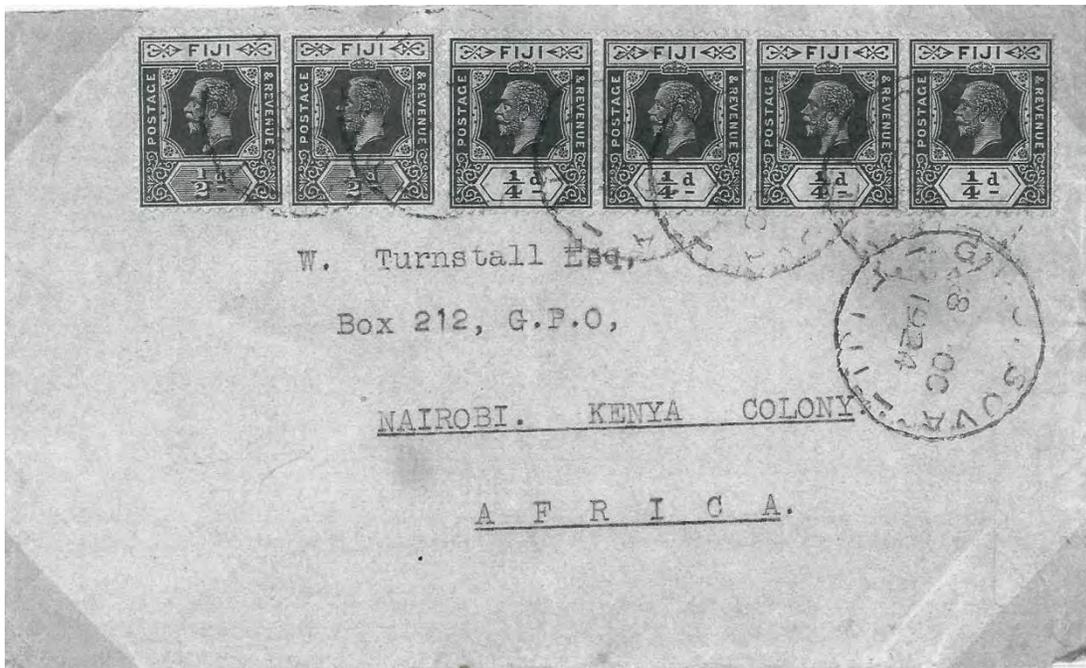
My sincere thanks to Allan Gory for his having read and commented on an earlier draft.

A Farthing for your Thoughts

George Speirs

In late 1915, the Fiji Government was concerned about the ineffective dissemination of War News. In the absence of radio, newspapers were almost the only source of war news, being distributed mainly by sea. The rate of each newspaper, not exceeding 4 oz. was to be 1/4d, exceeding 4 oz it was 1/2d.

The farthing stamp came into use in Fiji on 1/4/1916 in an attempt to encourage the circulation of newspapers in country areas, the postage being reduced from 1/2d to 1/4d.



Having issued the 1/4d stamp it was therefore able to be used for postal purposes as can be seen from the illustrated cover to Nairobi, Kenya. The 1924 cover with 4 x 1/4d and 2 x 1/2d make up the 2d rate. These humble farthing stamps are die 11 (SG 228) and are catalogued at 96 English Pounds as a single.

The Jamestown Exposition

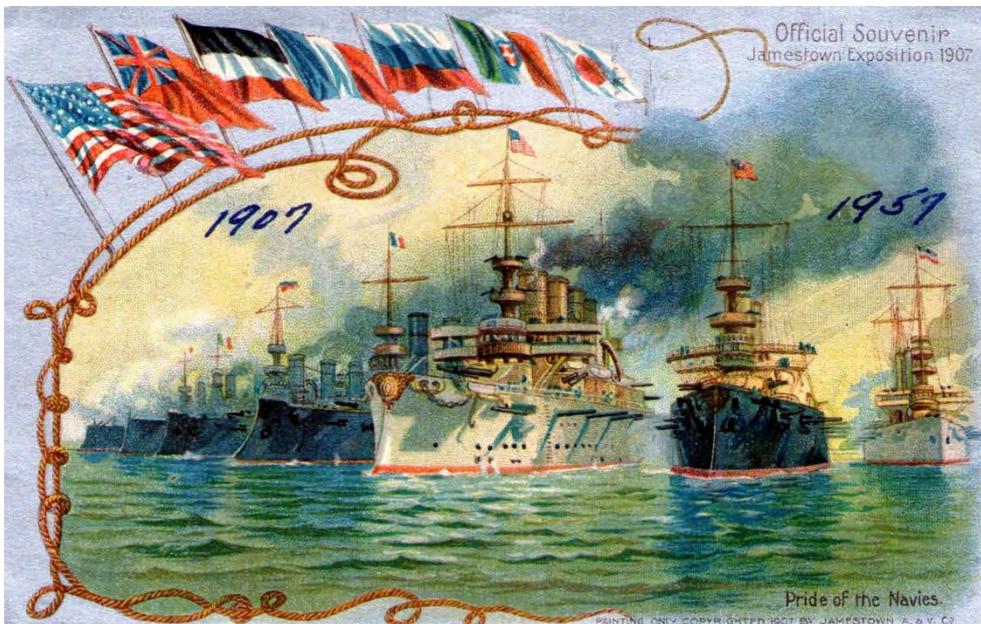
Ian Cutter

The exposition of 1907

The Jamestown Exposition celebrated the 300th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, Virginia, on a river about 40 miles inland from Chesapeake Bay. This was the first successful British settlement, although by 1907 it had been long abandoned.

The Exposition was on a site at Sewells Point, equidistant from Norfolk, Portsmouth, Newport News and Hampton. On opening day there was a review of 51 international ships, including 16 battleships, on Hampton Roads.

This card is an official souvenir of this Jamestown Exposition of 1907. It was published by the commissionaire, the Jamestown Amusement and Vending Co., inc., Norfolk, VA.



The message

The dates 1907 and 1957 have been added by hand to the face of the card. The card is addressed to Richard C. Robertson / 124 S. London Ave. Baltimore 29 / Maryland. The message reads "*Fortunate enough to have witnessed both reviews – 1907 the best. R.C.R.*"

We can assume that Mr Robertson is sending himself a card for the record. We can understand his verdict when we note that although the 1957 review did involve 113 ships from seventeen nations, the 14 USN ships included only one carrier and one battleship, accompanied by lesser vessels.

The Machine cancel shows the card to have been posted at Portsmouth VA on August 21, 1957. The stamp is the 3¢ special issue for this International Naval Review, and the slogan reads 1607 Jamestown. VA 1957 / Birthplace of the Nation / 350th anniversary. 3¢ was the basic letter rate at the time, although 2¢ would have sufficed for the postcard.

The earlier message

An optimistic collector [and are not all collectors optimistic?] might have had their attention roused by the two earlier stamps, and the scarcely-visible original message. Could it be that Mr Robinson had retrieved his card of 1907 and used it to pass on the opinion he held fifty years later? Imagine adding a postscript to a letter sent fifty years earlier, and being able to demonstrate that the same card had gone through the post on two occasions fifty years apart!

The green 1¢ Franklin and red 2¢ Washington stamps were issued in 1902. Commemorative stamps of those denominations were issued in 1903 and 1907, but definitives were not issued until 1908, so these stamps would have been contemporary with the Exposition, although the 1¢ alone would have sufficed for postage. On the other hand, the lack of a 1907 postmark is regrettable, and the position of the stamps on the card does look a bit odd.

The original message is fragmented. It does include

"...one of the postals from Norfolk...he brought them along Of them ships are familiar to him."

This is not at all meaningful, but it is sufficient, with its mention of Norfolk and of ships, to tie the writer of the card, or somebody known to the writer, to the Exposition, (although not necessarily linked to Mr Roberts).

But there is no address. It is reasonable to assume that the card did actually pass through the postal system - after all that is what usually happens to postcards once they have been written - but it would have been inside an envelope.

An explanation

Then, what about the 1907 vintage stamps? Why put stamps on a card to go in an envelope, [It could be suggested that the stamps were applied and the writer got carried away and used up too much space and.....Clutching at straws here.] The most economical explanation for their lack of cancellation and odd location is that they were not originally on the card, having been added by Mr Roberts before posting in 1957.

So when did the card come into the possession of Mr Roberts. Any time after 1907 is possible but probably much later, in fact some time after his 1957 visit.

The International Naval Review took place between 11th and 13th June, so Mr Roberts would have formed his opinion on the relative merits of the two reviews by mid-June. One plausible explanation of why he did not express this in writing until two months had passed is that he did not have the card until then.

Which just leaves the questions of why he was still in Portsmouth in August (or did he make a special trip to post the card there) and was he just lucky that the relevant slogan was still used on the datestamp, and did he really expect the card to travel by airmail to Baltimore, a distance of less than 200 miles.

Too many questions and not enough answers, but interesting, nonetheless.

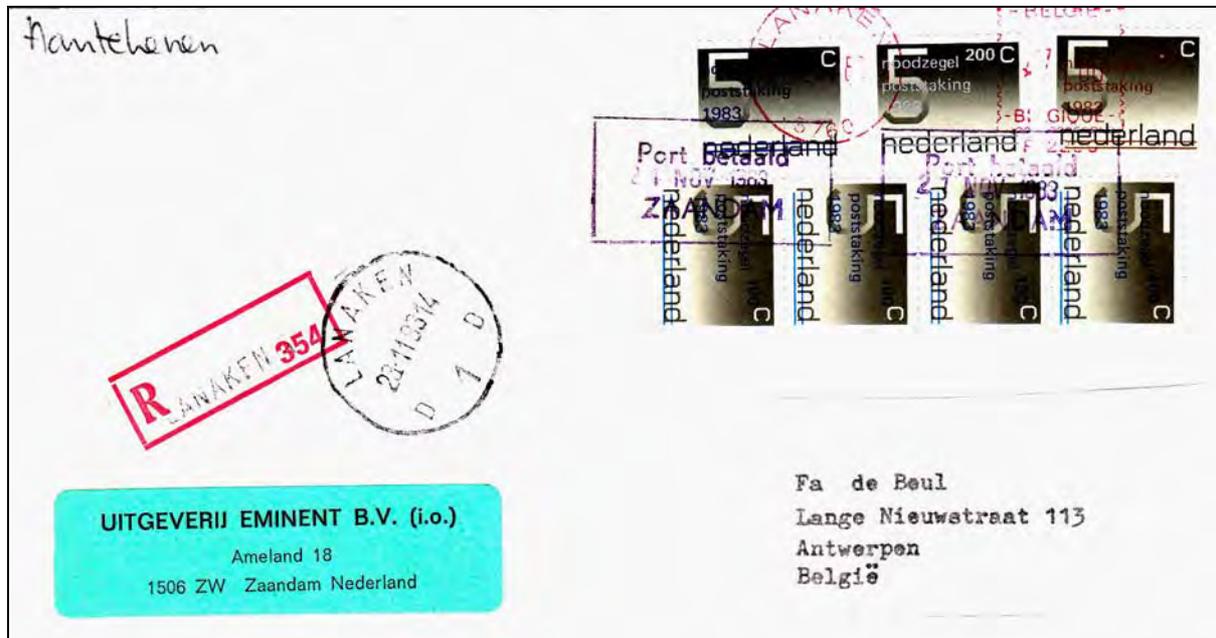
Competition for the Dutch Postal Services

Michael Barden

Initially, I wrote the cover story, 1983 Postal strike, which appears below, as a stand alone article. Joel van der Beek, a Belgian Philatelic Study Circle (BPSC) had assisted me. Later he unearthed more articles, in particular one written by Bate Hylkema, which threw light on my cover's originator as well as showing examples from other occasions. (read on for Hylkema's article).

1983 Postal strike. Dutch civil servants were subjected to a 3.5% salary cut (late September). This caused the postmen working for the Koninklijke PTT (Royal National Post, Telegraph and Telephone) to go on strike with the consequent shutting down of the posts early October 1983. The strike would last until the end of November 1983. With no mail being delivered, commerce and trade rapidly declined into chaos. Koninklijke PTT became a private company with the name TNT and later PostNL.

From 7 November Zaandam City (near Amsterdam) surcharged the 5c (SG 1226) stamp of 1976 with 100c (in purple), 200c (silver) and 300c (red) and Noodzegel Poststaking 1983 (emergency stamp postal strike 1983). Also, there was a double coloured bar through Nederland to show it was a private surcharge. These stamps were surcharged by John Schalekamp (see later article)



Cancellation was a purple rectangle containing **Port Betaald / 21 Nov 1983 / Zaandam** (Postage paid / 21 Nov 1983 / Zaandam). From Zaandam the letters were driven by a private contractor across the Dutch-Belgian border to Lanaken, where they entered the Belgian postal system Friday 23 September. In this case a commercial letter from Eminent Publishers BV was registered (antekenen) and forwarded to Antwerp.

The **Lanaken D1** cds (for the registration label) has been damaged in that the left side of the circle is flattened. A **Lanaken 3760** mechanical cancel dated 23 Nov 1983 appears at the top of the letter.

While this letter originated from Holland, it was the co-operation of the Belgian Posts, which made this possible. In this case the postage and registration cost 10 guilders, an extortionate amount – but then the mail got through.

My thanks to Joel van der Beek, who helped me with this article by pointing out websites with some information, and finally editing out my errors. As I had previously found out and Joel confirmed, catalogues contain virtually nothing about this issue, if they mention it at all.

Joel used these websites:

<http://jdlkremer.angelfire.com/2010.05.pdf> (in English but a 7mb + file)

<http://www.zeelandnet.nl/weblog/data/postzegel/index.php?pagina=20&item=82765> (In Dutch)

http://www.willempasterkamp.nl/index.php?page=shop.product_details&flypage=flypage_simple.tpl&product_id=3536&category_id=199&option=com_virtuemart&Itemid=9999 (in Dutch)

The second half of this article was originally written in Dutch. It was translated by a web service with my help.

Post - Monopoly in Friesland pressured by city & regional posts

15 May 2011, - [Bate Hylkema](#)



Following the full page article "Postal services close by" in Leeuwarden Courant of April 30, 2002, of which I used some information, I wish to draw your attention to the Leeuwarden businessman John Schalekamp (1919-2001), who was one of the first competitors to the PTT (National Post Office). Through Stadspost Leeuwarden, he initiated competition in 1969. The changing postal market in our country now has to make the change with larger and more influential competitors.



One of the first Dutch city post organisations started in Leeuwarden. John Schalekamp, an adman, started his company in 1969, from dissatisfaction with the ever increasing postal tariffs. 'Uncle Post', as he called himself, opened the attack with self-printed stamps, which were slightly less than half the price (12 cents instead of 25 cents) than those of the state owned PTT.



The stamps issued in the Stadspost Leeuwarden, made no secret of the discord with KPTT. The Leeuwarden postal service was a Tom Thumb in the eyes of Schalekamp, which did not get a fair chance. At the time of the production of the stamps, Schalekamp must have undoubtedly thought of the statement "In which a small business can be great". Indeed, he released a series of three large-format stamps (41 x 34 mm), ranging in franking values of 10, 12 and 15 cents.

In the initial year (1969) KPTT challenged Schalekamp in court. He was fined 750 guilders, because he had delivered letters from more than one sender and that meant a violation of the Postal Act. Four lawsuits and a search raid were not enough to get Schalekamp on his knees. The tax authorities, however, did: Schalekamp received in 1972 a charge of 6,000 guilders for arrears of income tax for its postmen. That year he threw in the towel: "Financial and physically destroyed!"



A typographical 30-cent commemorative stamp of KPTT for the statesman Thorbecke with the text "There is more to be done in the world than before" Schalekamp edited subtly in a complaint about the high postal rates. He even got the KPTT postmen on his side with his '15 cent stamp' with the text "There is more to be done than ever to satisfy the KPTT" The country name 'Netherlands' shines unspoken on the stamp, probably unique for such cinderellas.



The 'city post-empire' of Schalekamp in time included several places, witnessed by the accompanying stamps. Additional to Leeuwarden, it also included Harlingen, Appingedam, Delfzijl and Den Helder. The stamps from various cities were all printed the same colours yellow, orange and brown.



According to another source, a stamp series (with the 'S' of Schalekamp, year of issue unknown to me) also Hengelo in the province of Overijssel belonged to the Schalekamp city postal delivery area.

More regional 'tainted' Cinderellas



In the province of Friesland, there have then been more publishers of fake stamps, of which I own one for postage in the province of Friesland. The stamps have the dates February 8, 1971 and May 6, 2002



This stamp was issued by YMCO-Region Post (publisher??) on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Freule-Party (a handball competition for young people) in Wommels. The name giver of award is / was the lady CJ Fox Steenwijk. The stamp image shows a flagpole, with the position of a handball match between two sides indicated. The cancellation is by FRL Post from Leeuwarden. (Stamp on left)

Another publisher (including the anonymous organization Friesian Post, Telegraph and Telephone [FPTT]) also released a stamp on the national market with typical Friesian oriented subjects in 1981, 1982 and 1984 (consistent!).



(a) 1981: 'Kneppelfreed 16 Nov 51 (Bat Friday) there was a clash between police and a group of Friesians in Leeuwarden on Friday, November 16, 1951, who wanted to attend the court hearing the case on appeal by Schurer - De Jong. Schurer had previously purposely offended the Heerenveense subdistrict, following a presentation by De Jong, who spoke (through ignorance) more Friesian than Dutch. De Jong got a dressing down from the judge.

On a completely different matter immediately after, Schurer had to appear in court. He then deliberately spoke Friesian! Of course this was followed by other remarks, because Fedde Schurer deliberately threw a "bombshell"! The trial on appeal in Leeuwarden has ultimately led to the Friesian language being equated with the Dutch language.



(b) 1982/83: Redbeard (LHS) had been king of Great Friesland (reign 679-719). Redbeard's death meant the end of Great Friesland. The Rhine was no longer the border with the Frankish empire.

(c) 1984: William Louis (1560-1620) has meant much for Friesland, hence the name of honour 'Ús Heit' (Our Father). His motto was "Wills'Gott mit Ehren" (God's wills with Honour), which was placed on both portraits.

Current Cinderellas

On the sheet of ten stamps "pompeblêd" below (with text Post Group www.fryslan.nl) by changing company (listed at the bottom of the sheet), one may vary the participating sender!

Hylkema Bate writes articles about philately since 1980 and lives in the small Friesian town of Beetsterzwaag.



It is amazing that supposedly staid Dutchmen have competed with the KPPT, forced its privatisation, and have all these cinderellas as well as "official overprints" from strike times to show for their efforts. It makes you wonder if privatising postal services in other countries would lead to better or worse service and how this is reflected in the costs (electricity, gas and water have all risen since 'privitisation' in Victoria).

Out of the Frying Pan into the Fire

Tony Lyon

Many POW ended up in Germany after Italy capitulated. The British authorities had instructed them to stay in the camps until they could be freed by the allies.

The view has been expressed that the orders were only intended to forbid mass breakouts, in view of the reprisals it was thought might be taken. But the evidence makes it clear that the orders were meant to serve the needs of the administrative arrangements for evacuating prisoners, which, in the event of an undisturbed armistice situation, would have been all the easier if no prisoners at all, had left their camps.¹

At the news of the Armistice most camp commandants told their prisoners that they would release them in good time 'if the Germans came'; alternatively, they and their men would defend the prisoners against the Germans. Practically none of them, whether from faint-heartedness, treachery, or sheer inefficiency, kept this bargain. In some cases these fulsome promises must have been deliberately intended to deceive prisoners and keep them inside the wire until the German troops arrived to collect them. As for the prisoners themselves, messages sent out by the War Office in code to the Senior British Officer in each camp had ordered that, should peace be declared, everyone was to remain in camp as a special organisation would arrive by plane to take over every camp. In spite of personal misgivings the Senior British Officers passed on these orders, though some afterwards released men from obeying them. This policy of the British authorities has been sharply criticised by former prisoners of war: 'It had been a ghastly blunder Thousands of men had been cheated of the freedom they had so anxiously awaited for so long.' But many never had the shadow of a choice.

The circumstances at each camp at the Armistice varied considerably. Some were entirely deserted by their guards, who flung away their rifles, climbed into civilian clothes, and disappeared homewards. In these and other camps there were mass escapes. In one instance the prisoners took over their guards' quarters and lived in them until the Germans rounded them up. In another camp, the prisoners were warned by civilians that the Germans were close and they were able to disperse into the countryside. In some camps the Carabinieri remained faithful to what they conceived to be their duty and kept their prisoners until they could hand them over to the Germans. In many camps a number of the prisoners left hurriedly when the Germans were within sight.²



¹ Mason, W. Wynne. 1954. *Prisoners of War*. Official History of New Zealand in the Second World War 1939-1945. Wellington: War History Branch. Department of Internal Affairs.

² Hall, D. O. W. 1948. *Prisoners of Italy*. Episodes and Studies. Vol1. Wellington: Historical Publications Branch.

Vanishing Towns and Other Matters

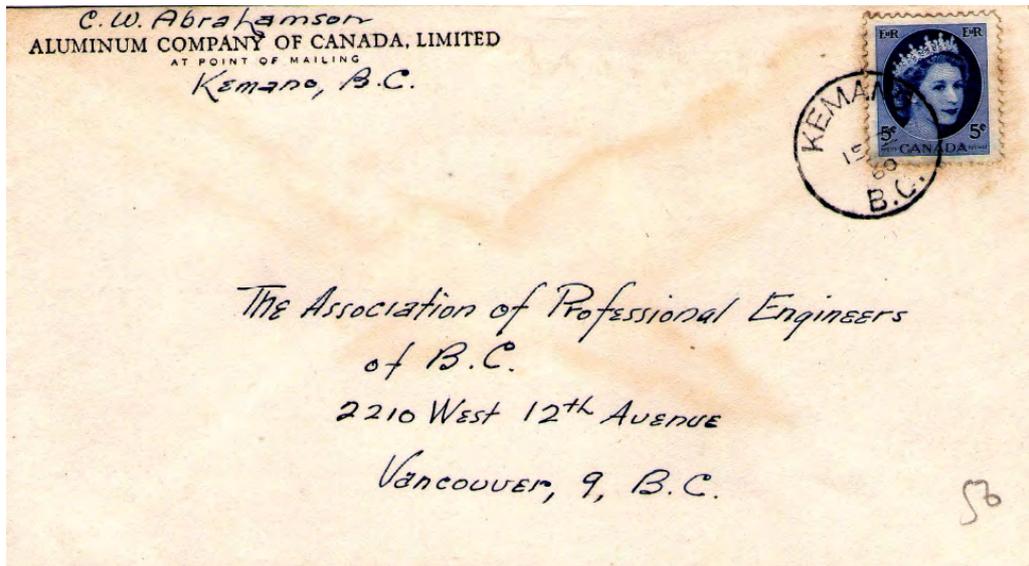
Ian Cutter

A number of years ago the AJP carried a brief article about collecting covers from towns that had been “disestablished”. I recall that Radium Hill and Mary Kathleen were mentioned.

Here is a similar example from Canada.

Kemano was a settlement situated 75km southeast of Kitimat in British Columbia. It was built in the 1950s in order to service a hydroelectric power station, which was being built to provide energy for Alcan to smelt aluminium.

In 2000, the residents were moved out, and most of houses were burnt down as a training exercise for fire departments



From the HB Smith Archive – erratum.

In my article (AJP No. 125, September 2013) I must apologise for my incorrect comments at the foot of page 7, where I stated that the registered letter from Mandilovitch did not have any Australian back stamps. Indeed it does, the first GPO – Sydney RS/ 16JY38, then Registered/2/Melbourne /10P 17JL38. My thanks to two interested members, who spotted the errors and then notified me. MB

Loch – a postscript

Quite a few years ago there was an article in the Datestamp about the private boxes at the post office at Loch, in south Gippsland. The article drew attention to the bevelled glass windows in the front of some boxes, and also commented about the lettering on the front of the boxes. Several issues later the matter of the lettering was explained.

All this is now academic – a visit in early October revealed the space formerly occupied by the boxes to be boarded over, with a notice reading "POST OFFICE IS NOW CLOSED. PLEASE PUT MAIL INTO THE RED MAIL BOX NEAR COSY KITCHEN CAFÉ VICTORIA STREET"

On the notice-board a message informs "Dear Customers" that

"The Loch Licensed Post Office will be closing at 5 pm on Friday 28 June 2013.

To ensure Loch residents have ongoing access to postal services, a new Community Postal Agency (CPA) will be established at the "Cosy Kitchen" at 27 Victoria Street from Monday 1 July 2013."

After reading the list of services that the new CPA will provide – counter mail, PO box deliveries, stamps, prepaid satchels, Express Post Satchels and the ability to assess [?] and send mail and parcels – we find that a full range of products and services will continue to be available at the nearby outlets at Nyora (distance 5km), Poowong (5.9km) and Korumburra (12.5km). [If Nyora looks the best choice, don't forget it closes for lunch.]

The external facilities are in place in the new location - a small, bright-red letterbox on a post and a matrix of 45 private boxes with a small hood to shelter them, and to a lesser extent, the customer, from the prevailing south-westerlies.

I wonder what became of the little glass windows?

Tel Aviv to Budapest via Athens

Tony Lyon



Some times things just happen. The day that Micheal Barden sent me the article by Judy Kennett regarding the Greek Currency Control Marks published in this issue (p 5), I was looking at items on Ebay relating to Palestine and came across this Postal Card. There was the Athens Currency control mark, (I think it is fig 8 in the article).

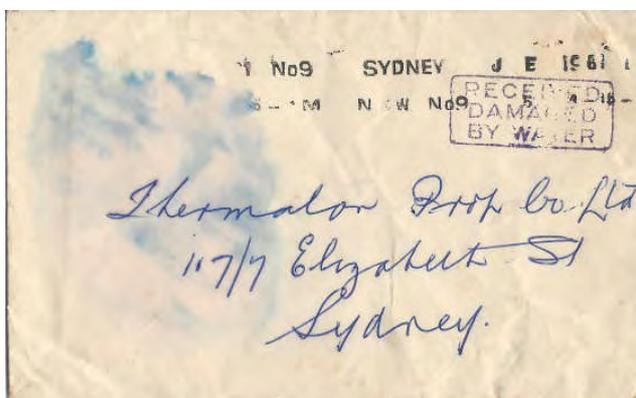
I liked it for a number of reasons. 1. The Athens mark plus 2 Athens transit markings on the reverse. Then the fact it was an airmail postal card with a Jasqua marking. The card was cancelled at Tel Aviv 13 MR 1939 and the Anthens cancel is dated III 39 13 and is a airmail marking 'Poste Aerienne'.

Unfortunately two stamps on the back have been removed. The vendor did not mention this in their description. However the card has a number of elements to make that an annoying issue. However it would have been nice to know what those stamps represented. Post Due possibly?

Nina Dowden

Interesting Cachet

Nina sent some interesting covers from her collection and when I have space I will use them. In this case an interesting cachet presumably applied in Sydney. It reads 'Received Damaged by Water.'



Hand-Held Date Stamps

Co-ordinated by George Vearing

This edition is predominately from Victoria and Western Australia and there must be more from other states that are available

Some interesting details about the datestamps in this edition , there are 2 postmarks from Moorabbin Business Centre and both are using the code F .There are also 2 postmarks from Business Centres and they now have HUB on them i.e. NUNAWADING BUSINESS HUB and MOORABBIN BUSINESS HUB. Does anyone know if and when the name changed and are they now being called Business Hubs?

Many thanks to Richard Peck. Ian Cutter, and Simon Alsop for their contributions to this column.

N.S.W.

QLD.

TAS.



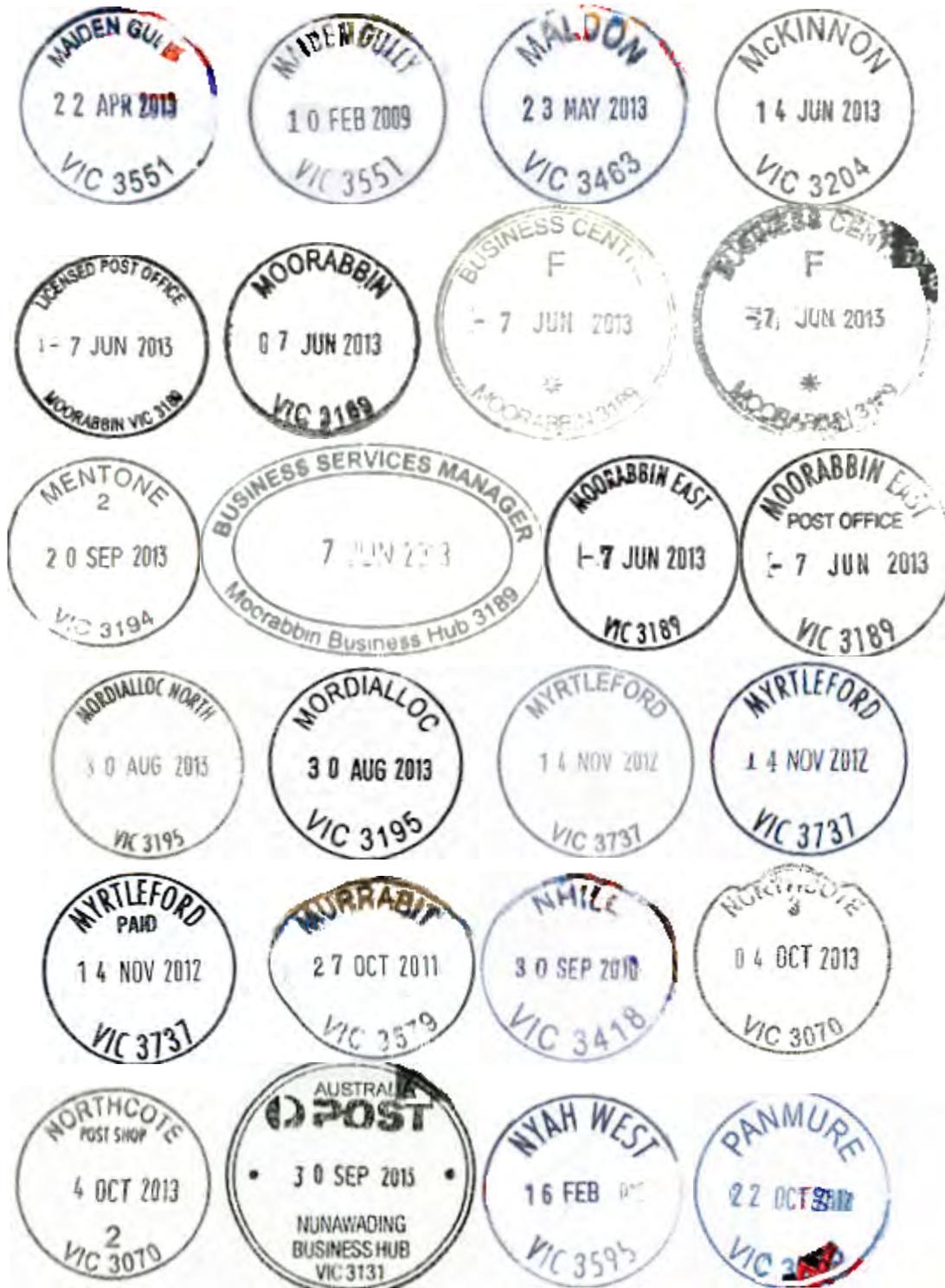
VIC:-Earlier datestamps-ASPENDALE(117/26), BEAUMARIS(116/25)



VIC.:- Earlier datestamps-DALLAS (117/27) DOVETON (104/31)



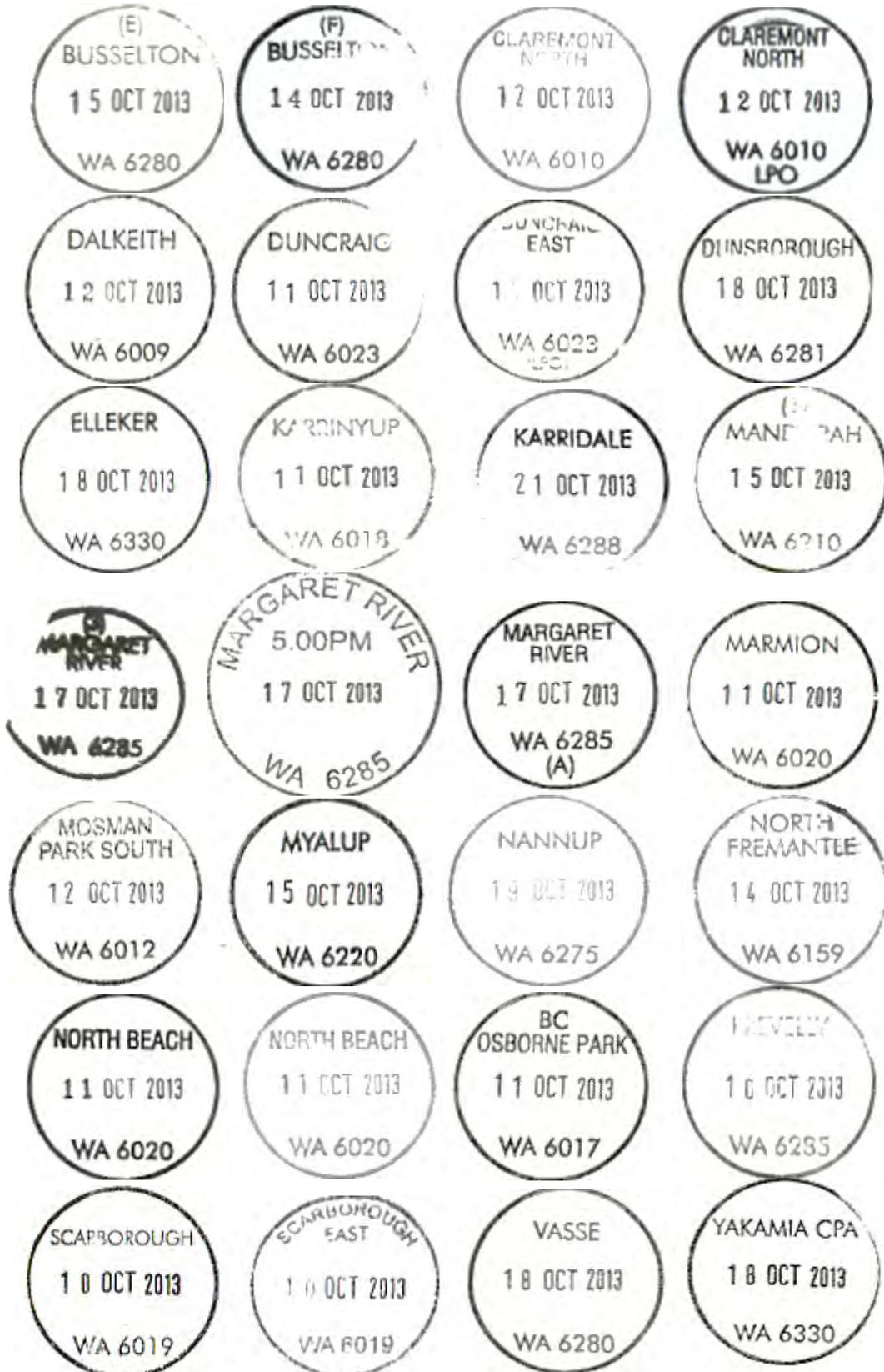
VIC.:- (cont) Earlier date stamps-McKINNON (117/28), MALDON (119/28)



W.A. BUSSELTON-DOT2 unusual number



W.A.:- NORTH BEACH has different 1s in the dateline



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- ◆ Send the Editor any interesting philatelic news
- ◆ Come to the bi-monthly meeting if in Melbourne
- ◆ Help George Vearing with his Datestamp Notes
- ◆ Get involved in one of the Study Groups
- ◆ Enter the Society Competitions
- ◆ Volunteer to display your collection at the monthly meeting
- ◆ Ensure the Council receives your feedback and suggestions for the Society

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Eclectic Airmails

John Young

Once again John has provided some interesting airmail covers.



Registered air and express-delivery letter, 1947. Double-weight (1 ounce) airmail 3 shillings, 3 pence registration, 4 pence express delivery. Overpaid by 2 pence, though registered-mail late fee was that amount.



Second-Class, unsealed airmail, 1952. Correctly franked 1 shilling and 3 pence for 1½ ounce auction catalogue at 5d per ½ ounce.



Airmail postcard sent October 1944 soon after liberation of Paris, flown on the old Qantas /BOAC route which re-opened in July. Sender wrote, "We are very anxious to hear that you and Robert are well". Correctly franked 9 pence.



Registered aerogramme to Austria 1951. The joined strip of three centenary stamps paid the registration fee.



A very Merry Christmas
and
a prosperous New Year